

LEISTON-cum-SIZEWELL
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT.

For the Year 1915,

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,

HERBERT M. SYLVESTER,

L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S.,

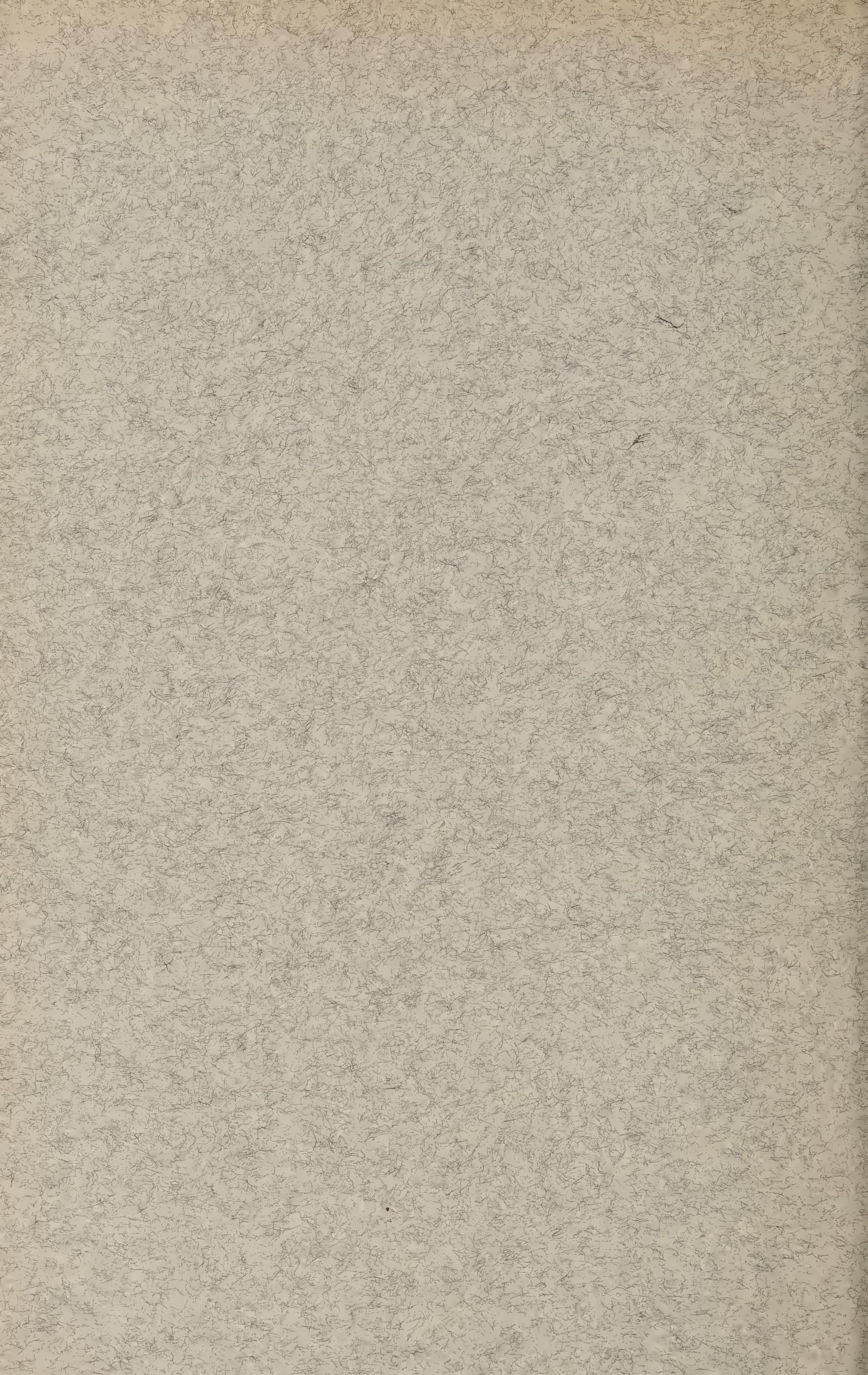
AND OF THE

Inspector of Nuisances,

ROBT. E. WILSON,

M.I.M. & Cy. E., A.R.S.I.

W. H. Parkes, The Abbey Press, Leiston.



TO MEMBERS OF THE

Leiston Urban District Council.

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GENTLEMEN,—

I have the honour to present my report on the General Health and Sanitary Administration of the District for the Year 1915.

PUBLIC HEALTH.

The epidemic of Scarlet Fever which was in progress at the end of 1915 continued till March, 34 additional cases being notified. 58 cases occurred, with one death (that of an infant under one week old.)

During the remainder of the year the general health has been satisfactory.

Death Rate, corrected, 11.8 per 1,000, population.
Birth Rate, corrected, 25.3 per 1,000 population.

Notifiable Infectious Diseases.

35 cases notified—(1914, 42 cases notified), viz : 24 Scarlet Fever, 4 Erysipelas, 1 Diphtheria, 3 Pulmonary Tuberculosis, 2 Puerperal Fever, and 1 Enteric Fever. Deaths arising from 1 Puerperal Fever, 1 Erysipelas, 2 Pulmonary Tuberculosis. No infectious cases occurred amongst soldiers billeted or in camp in the district.

MORTALITY.

47 Deaths were registered in the district and 3 of Leistonians non-resident in the district; net total belonging to the district 50. For 1914—35.

Death rate : Deaths registered in the district 11.2, corrected to 11.8; For 1914—7.1 and 7.3. England and Wales 1906—1910,—14.4.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

Under 1 year, 6; 65 and upwards, 16.
 Pulmonary Tuberculosis, 2, other tuberculosis diseases, 2.
 Infantile Diarrhoea, 1, Measles, 1.

Death rate in Infants under 1 yr. 56.6. England & Wales 1914, 105. In the working years, (i.e., 15 to 65) there were 22 deaths.

BIRTHS.

Net births belonging to district 106. Boys 60, Girls 46; Legitimate 99, Illegitimate 7. The ratio of girls to boys is exceptional, the former generally outnumbering the latter—perhaps a "dispensation of providence" to provide for the wastage of war.

1913, Leiston's record, 145; 1914, 116.
 Birth rate, 25.3, above the average.

A.—National and Social Conditions of District.

POPULATION.—1911 Census, 4359. Estimate for 1915 supplied by General Register Office, Somerset House, 4189. Leiston has been hard hit in this respect by the war.

MARRIAGES.—23. Rate 5.5 per 1,000; population, 1914, 6.5.

B.—Sanitary Circumstances.

i. WATER SUPPLY. The supply from the Council's well has been ample for all purposes, the quality satisfactory.

ii. DRAINAGE AND SEWAGE.—The Rain Water Sewer proposed to be constructed from the White Horse corner to the Valley Marsh, to provide for the relief of the ordinary sewer and sewage works during the excessive rainfall, has not been proceeded with, probably owing to the war.

iii. THE SEWAGE WORKS.—Various alterations, details of which will be found in the report of the Sanitary Inspector, have led to much improvement in the working capacity.

C.—CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

Water Carriage, about 500. Pail closets 400. The conversion from pails to water carriage is desirable; none have been converted during this year.

Of the 4 privy middens mentioned in my last report 2 have been converted.

D.—SCAVENGING.

The Removal and disposal of House Refuse by the Contractor has been the cause of complaint owing to irregularity of removal and want of precautions in disposal of house refuse. This was the subject of a special report by me to the Council at the request of the Local Government Board. These complaints were, I consider, justified. The Council has under consideration a scheme for carrying out this work by their own labour, instead of putting it out to contract.

The provision, by the landlord, of properly constructed covered iron receptacles for the reception of house refuse before removal, is, I consider, an absolute necessity, and I would urge the Council to make use of their powers to compel this to be done.

E.—Sanitary Inspections of District.

Housing and Town Planning Acts	...	104
Ordinary Inspections	...	48
Slaughter Houses	...	28
Workshops and Factories	...	24
Bake Houses	...	24
Cowsheds and Milk Shops	...	23
Infectious Diseases	...	42
Drainage of New Buildings	...	3

Making a total of 296 inspections carried out by the Sanitary Inspector and myself,

F.—Premises and Occupations controlled by Bye-laws and Regulations.

There are no Lodging Houses, Offensive Trades or Underground dwellings in the district.

FOOD.

1. **Milk Supply.**—Mainly drawn from the district, there being one purveyor from an adjoining district. Presumably the supply is pure and wholesome, but, as there is no efficient inspection of cows for tuberculosis, which would necessitate the appointment of a qualified Veterinary Surgeon, it is impossible to be certain on this point. County Councils should appoint such experts,

The eleven cowsheds have been regularly inspected, and although they do not all maintain the same standard of cleanliness, chiefly in respect to drainage and cleanliness of floors, considerable improvement has been effected in recent years.

The one milk shop situated in Main Street has been kept in a proper cleanly condition.

2. Other Foods.—No action has been taken in respect of Unsound Food & Food Inspection. This again necessitates the appointment of an expert. The premises of a manufacturer and purveyor of "Ice Cream" have been inspected and recommendations carried out. There are no underground bakeries.

3. Sale of Foods and Drugs Act.—No action taken. Milk and Cream Regulations 1912. No Public Analyst appointed for this district.

Housing (Inspection of District), 1910.

Number of Houses Inspected	...	...	104
Number unfit for habitation	...	...	0
Number of representations with a view to closing orders	...	...	0

In Coldfair Green what I chiefly noticed was the absence of paved yards and surface drains rendering the surroundings of the house generally damp.

Number of formal Notices served	0
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The compulsory provision of suitable covered receptacles for the storage of house refuse before removal is urgently necessary.

New Houses.

Two built and occupied, three in course of construction. The War must be held responsible for this, though there are but very few empty houses in the district. The Council's Scheme for providing new houses has been postponed.

No building bye-laws in force in the district.

Cemetery.

Owing to the Churchyard accommodation showing a tendency to become inadequate, the Council have purchased land on the Saxmundham Road for the purposes of a Cemetery. This has been fenced and plans approved for the building of a Chapel and for the laying out of part of the area.

Workshops and Workplaces.

The Factories and Workshops have been regularly inspected. No formal notices have been necessary.

There are no Home Workers and no Under Ground Bakehouses.

Sanitary Administration of District.

1. STAFF.—Mr. R. E. Wilson, M.I.M. and Cy.E., A.R.S.I. Sanitary Inspector. No other Officer.

2. HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASE.— No cases have been admitted during 1915. The equipment has been added to and various small matters are being attended to in order to render the accommodation more sufficient. The Council have arranged with the Blything Rural District Council to receive patients from that district.

3. ADMINISTRATION OF LOCAL ACTS OR GENERAL ADOPTIVE ACTS.—

- (1.) Part ii. Public Health Act, Amendment Act, 1890.
- (2.) The Infectious Diseases Prevention Act. 1890.
- (3.) Public Health Acts, Amendments Acts, 1907, Part iii., Section 39 to 42 inclusive. Part vii., Section 82. Part x., Section 92.

4. No chemical or bacteriological work is carried out locally. The County M.O.H. carries out the examination of sputa, swabbings, etc., free of charge.

5. PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER ACUTE INFECTIOUS DISEASE.—Ringworm is still in evidence in the school children but to a less extent. Summer diarrhoea was almost absent. Scarlet Fever was prevalent in January, February & March, Ophthalmia Neonatorum has been compulsorily notifiable from April 1, 1914. No cases notified.

No cases of Cerebrospinal meningitis or Poliomyelitis. Disinfection is carried out by means of Formalin Vapour.

6. PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER TUBERCULOSIS.— Number notified 3, in 1914, 3. The rate per 1000 population in England is 2.32.

Tuberculosis cases are admitted into the Ipswich Borough Sanatorium.

7. INVESTIGATIONS OF OTHER DISEASES.—Syphilis very rarely met with, Gonorrhoea only slightly more frequently. There are no local facilities for diagnosis and treatment of these diseases.

8. MEANS OF PREVENTING MORTALITY IN CHILDBIRTH AND INFANCY.—The Sanitary Authority is not the Authority under the Act. No practising mid-wife in the district. Two district nurses working under the Suffolk Nursing Association do not attend cases independently of the medical practitioners. A lady Inspector appointed by the Suffolk County Council inspects. The Notification of Births Acts is now compulsory. The Deaths in Infants, Under 1 year, 6. (Erysipelas, 1; Convulsions, 1; Laryngitis, 1; Enteritis, 1; Premature Birth, 1; Marasmus, 1).

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

HERBERT M. SYLVESTER

Medical Officer of Health,

Leiston, March 1st, 1916.

LEISTON-cum-SIZEWELL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Report of the Sanitary Inspector for 1915.

To the CHAIRMAN and MEMBERS of the PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

GENTLEMEN.—

I beg to submit to you my Annual Report upon work carried out in the Sanitary Department during the 12 months ending 31 December, 1915.

NUISANCES.

During the year 11 informal notices were served to abate nuisances which were complied with, while in 25 other cases, Nuisances were abated after verbal notices.

HOUSING, TOWN PLANNING ACT.

I have inspected 104 houses under this Act, and found defects as under consist chiefly of insanitary receptacles for house refuse.

Preliminary notices have been served on owners relating to 7 houses and verbal notice given to 5 owners relative to houses.

THE following is a classified list of inspections shewing defects :—

1. Houses Inspected	194
2. Number of Houses with Defects ...	7
3. Total number of such Defects... ...	7
4. Number of Houses with insanitary receptacles for house refuse	12
5. Number of Houses with insufficient paving and drainage of back yards	Nil
6. Number of Houses with damp floors and walls	Nil
7. Number of Houses with defective roofs ..	5
8. Number of Houses with other defects ...	2

OVERCROWDING.

During the year the case of overcrowding mentioned in my previous report was abated.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

There are 5 registered Slaughter Houses in the District, which I have visited periodically, and have found them generally very clean. No carcase or parts of a carcase have been condemned for Tuberculosis or other animal diseases and generally the quality of the meat was good.

I gave verbal notices in 2 cases of dirty condition which were immediately cleansed.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS.

There are 7 Cowkeepers and Purveyors of milk, also one Milk Shop registered in the District, also one Purveyor of Milk from an adjoining District.

The number of Cowsheds in the District is 11 and accommodate about 20 cows, and these sheds have been visited on 14 occasions, and in two cases notice was given re limewashing.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT.

The number of Workshops registered in the District are 21 and 7 factories. I have visited, and found same satisfactory.

The following is an analysis of the Workshops and Factories:—

Bakehouses	...	...	..	4
Boot Repairers	...	..	...	3
Dressmakers and Milliners	...	..	..	4
Joiners and Cabinet Makers	..	..	..	5
Wheelwright	...	...	..	1
Blacksmith	...	...	..	1
Cycle Repairers	...	...	..	3
			<hr/>	<hr/>
				21
Engineering Works	...	...	..	1
Mineral Water Factory	...	...	..	1
Flour Mills	...	...	..	2
Brick Works	...	...	..	1
Motor Works	...	...	..	1
Printing Works	...	...	..	1
			<hr/>	<hr/>
				7

There are no Outworkers in the District. No case of Infectious Disease occurred at any of the premises.

BAKEHOUSES.

There are 4 Bakehouses on the Register, which I have visited three times during the year. It was found necessary in 2 cases to give notice re limewashing.

SCAVENGING HOUSE REFUSE.

A Contractor undertakes the removal of House Refuse weekly. He is greatly hampered by the insanitary and primitive type of receptacle in use for reception of refuse, consisting chiefly of small wooden boxes without lids. Owing to shortage of labour, the Contractor has not carried out his work in a satisfactory manner and the Council have at a recent meeting proposed to do the work themselves. Suitable horses and carts are to be provided at an early date.

The Council will, I trust, endeavour to introduce proper sanitary dust bins, when they take over the duties of removal of house refuse, which I am sure will be advantageous to the health of the tenants.

CLOSET PAILS.

There are about 400 of these in the Town and District, which are emptied weekly by the same Contractor, the work being done between 6 and 8 a.m. each morning.

The contents of the pails are emptied into a sanitary tumbler cart and taken on to farms well out of the town.

It is to be hoped the Council will soon take steps to convert this system into the more sanitary one of water carriage throughout the town.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

During the year 35 rooms were disinfected after cases of infectious disease: 29 after Scarlet Fever, 2 after Tuberculosis and 4 after Diphtheria. The disinfectant used is the Formalin Vapour Lamp.

In all cases when notified, the houses are visited, enquiries made, disinfectants supplied, instructions given to prevent the spread of the disease, and insanitary condition existing remedied.

NEW BUILDINGS.

During the year 2 houses have been erected, while there are 3 now in course of erection.

There are no Building Byelaws in force in the District, but the Council are about to consider the question of their adoption.

Owing to the war, the housing scheme, to provide 50 houses, has been postponed.

The Council have Byelaws in operation under this head, and all drains of new buildings are now tested (where possible) with water, and I have applied such a test on 3 occasions.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

During the year, 6 patients have been treated here, daily inspections were made by the Sanitary Inspector, and food and necessary requisites supplied, wards disinfected & cleaned. During the year an extra 6 beds and furniture were put in the Hospital, which were purchased from Blything Rural District Council, and 2 lengths of new drains were laid for new gully and roof water over-flows.

Plans and Estimates were prepared for extension of Sewer and Watermain to Hospital, but owing to cost were not carried out. Plans and specifications for new earth closets, linen cupboard, etc. have been approved and work is proceeding.

SEWAGE WORKS.

During the year, the settling Tanks at Sewage Works have been connected by extra drainage, so that a double settlement is obtained, thereby reducing amount of sediment on land beds. 12 new beds have been made with under drains, this completing about one half of land available for Sewage treatment. Estimates were prepared and levels taken for the suggested surface water sewer from White Horse corner to Sewage Works.

HOUSE REFUSE DISPOSAL.

All House Refuse is disposed of on land adjoining Sewage Outfall Works. All papers and inflammable material burnt & pots & tins sorted out. Average number of loads of refuse collected and destroyed per week being about 20.

WATERWORKS.

The Waterworks consisting of duplicate sets of engines and three-throw pumps, supply the town with water from shallow well to water tower of 20,000 gallons capacity and from there gravitates to town. During the year 13,183,400 gallons of water were supplied to the town.

GENERAL INSPECTIONS.

Under Housing Town Planning ...	...	...	...	...	104
Ordinary Inspections ...	...	...	...	...	48
Slaughter Houses ...	...	...	...	...	18
Workshops and Factories ...	...	...	...	...	12
Bakehouses ...	...	...	...	...	12
Cowsheds and Milkshops ...	...	...	...	...	15
Infectious Diseases ...	...	...	...	...	42
Drainage of New Buildings ...	...	...	...	...	3
					—
					254

The following works have been undertaken :—

Drains unstopped ...	...	...	...	...	10
Air inlets to drains repaired ...	...	...	...	...	1
Offensive accumulations removed ...	...	...	...	...	8
New pail Closet in place of Privy Middens ...	...	...	...	...	1
Other nuisances abated ...	...	...	...	...	11
					—
					34

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

ROBT. E. WILSON,

Sanitary Inspector.

TABLE I.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1915 and previous Years.

YEAR	Births.		Total Deaths registered in the District.		Transferable Deaths.		Nett Deaths belonging to the District,					
	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	Un- corrected Number,	Nett Number	Rate	Number	Rate	of Non- residents registered in the District.	of Resi- dents not registered in the District.	Under 1 Year of Age.	At all Ages.		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1910	5206	89	17	5.1	27	5.1	7	28	28	5.3		
1911	4423	111	113	25.5	46	10.4	3	48	48	10.8		
1912	4520	93	93	20.5	32	7.07	0	36	36	7.9		
1913	4622	140	145	31.3	43	9.3	0	53	53	11.0		
1914	4741	115	116	24	34	7.1	0	35	35	7.3		
1915	4189	105	106	25.3	47	11.2	0	3	6	56.6	50	11.8

Area of District in acres
(land and inland)

4783

Total population at all ages

4359

At Census,
1911

Total families or separate occupiers

974

1911

TABLE II.

Cases of infectious Disease notified during the year 1915.

Notifiable Disease,	Number of Cases notified.						Total Cases notified in each Locality (e.g., Parish or Ward) of the District
	At Ages—years.						
	At all Ages						
	Under 1.		1 and under 5		5 and under 15		Total Cases removed to Hospital
Small-pox		
Cholera		
Diphtheria (including Membranous croup)	...		1		1		
Erysipelas		4		1		
Scarlet fever		24		9		
Typhus fever		1		10		
Enteric fever		2		3		
Relapsing fever		1		1		
Continued fever		2		2		
Postpartal fever		2		2		
Cerebro-spinal Menitis	...		2		2		
Poliomyelitis		1		1		
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...		3		3		
Pulmonary tuberculosis	...		12		2		
Other forms tuberculosis	...		7		4		
Totals ...	<b">35</b">		<b">1</b">		<b">9</b">		

TABLE III.
Cause of, and Ages at Death during the year 1915.

Causes of Death.	Nett Deaths at the subjoined ages of "Residents" whether occurring within or without the District										Total Deaths whether of "Residents" or Non-Residents in Institutions in the District.
	All Ages	Under 1 Year	1 and under 2	2 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 45	45 and under 65	65 and upwards		
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
All causes	47	6	3	1	2	12	8	15			II
Certified											
Uncertified											
Enteric Fever ...											
Small-pox ...											
Measles ...	1				I						
Scarlet Fever ...											
Whooping Cough ...											
Diphtheria and Croup											
Influenza ...	1		1							I	
Erysipelas ...	1		1								
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis) ...	2						I	I	I		
Tuberculous Meningitis	1				I						
Other Tuberculous Diseases ...	1							I	I		
Cancer, malignant Disease ...	2						I	I	I		
Rheumatic Fever ...	1						I				
Meningitis ...	1							I			I
Organic Heart Disease											
Bronchitis ...	4			I				2	I		
Pneumonia (all forms)	2						I		I		
Other diseases of respiratory organs	1		1								
Diarrhoea and Enteritis	1		1								
Appendicitis and Typhlitis ...											
Cirrhosis of Liver ...											
Alcoholism ...											
Nephritis and Bright's Disease ...											
Puerperal Fever ...		I									
Other accidents and diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition ...											
Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature Birth ...	2	2									
Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide ...	5							2	2	I	
Suicide ...								3	I		
Other Defined Diseases	18	I					I				
Diseases ill-defined or unknown ...										12	
TOTALS	47	6	3	1	2	12	8	15			

TABLE IV.

Infant Mortality.

1915. Nett Deaths from stated causes at various Ages under 1 Year of Age.

Causes of Death	Under 1 week.	1-2 weeks.	2-3 weeks.	3-4 weeks.	Total under 4 weeks.	4 weeks and under 3 months.	3 months and under 6 months.	6 months and under 9 months.	9 months and under 12 months.	Total Deaths under 1 year
	2				2	1	1		2	6
All Causes { Certified										
Uncertified										
Small. pox	2									
Chicken-pox										
Measles										
Scarlet fever										
Whooping-cough										
Diphtheria and Croup										
Erysipelas										
Tuberculous Meningitis										
Abdominal Tuberculosis										
Other Tuberculous										
Diseases										
Meningitis, <i>not Tuberculous</i>										
Convulsions										
Laryngitis										
Bronchitis										
Pneumonia (all forms)										
Diarrhoea										
Enteritis										
Gastritis										
Syphilis										
Rickets										
Suffocation, overlying										
Injury at birth										
Atelectasis										
Congenital Malformation										
Premature birth										
Atrophy, Debility and										
Marasmus										
Other causes										
Totals	...	...	2			2	1	1	2	6

Nett Births in the year. { Legitimate 99
Illegitimate 7Nett Death in the year of { Legitimate infants, 5
Illegitimate infants 1

